



Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

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Regional Planning Committee

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 27, 2020 – 7:00 pm

RiverCOG, 145 Dennison Road, Essex, CT 06426

Members:

Chester	Vacancy
Clinton	Alan Kravitz Eric Bergman
Cromwell	Chris Cambrieri * Anthony LaCava * (7:06pm)
Deep River	Bruce Edgerton Tony Bolduc
Durham	Frank DeFelice * Joe Pasquale
East Haddam	Crary Brownell Lou Salicrup
East Hampton	Michael Kowalczyk *
Essex	Sandra Childress *
Haddam	Raul deBrigard * Stasia DeMichele
Killingworth	Alec Martin * Stephanie Warren *
Lyme	Mary Stone *
Middlefield	Vacancy
Middletown	Beth Emery * Kellin Atherton *
Old Lyme	Harold Thompson
Old Saybrook	Karen Jo Marcolini
Portland	Dan Bourret *
Westbrook	Bill Neale * Marie Farrell

*Members Present

Staff Present:

Sam Gold
Torrance Downes
Eliza LoPresti

Guests: None

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1. Call to Order

Chairman DeFelice called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. Roll Call

3. Seating of Alternates

Sandra Childress (Essex) and Dan Bourret (Portland) were seated.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Neale moved to adopt the agenda, Mr. Martin seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor.

5. Nomination and Election of Officers

Mr. Neale moved to nominate the existing slate of officers: Frank DeFelice for Chairman, Raul deBrigard for Vice Chairman and Bruce Edgerton as Secretary. Second by Ms. Emery. Vote was unanimous in favor.

There were no other nominations from the floor.

Mr. Neale moved to elect the slate of officers as nominated: Frank DeFelice as Chairman, Raul deBrigard as Vice Chairman and Bruce Edgerton as Secretary. Second by Mr. Martin. Vote was unanimous in favor.

6. Public Comments – None

7. Approval of 2020 Meeting Dates

The April date was moved up one week to April 20th to accommodate Mr. Gold's schedule.

Mr. Neale moved to accept the 2020 meeting dates as revised; second by Mr. Martin. Vote was unanimous in favor.

8. Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting(s)

Because of the ransomware attack experienced on Jan. 10 at RiverCOG the minutes were not able to be accessed for approval. At this time Mr. Gold explained the details of the ransomware attack and answered questions.

Ms. Stone moved to table acceptance of the minutes, Mr. Martin seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor.

9. Update on Consultant for RPOCD

The contract was signed today by Fitzgerald & Halliday. The total project cost has risen to \$119,500, not including COG staff time. The meetings to be held in each town were discussed. RPC members will be included in communications regarding the meetings and have been asked to help with the presentations. The meetings will be held as soon as possible, prior to a draft of the plan.

Some meetings will be held during a P&Z meeting, some will be special meetings. Other land use commissions will be invited as well. For towns that cannot or will not accommodate the RPC,

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invites to the meetings in neighboring towns will work. It is expected that this process will take three months. Toward the end of the process there will be more public involvement.

Included in FHI's scope of work is the task of going through each town's POCD and using that to inform the regional POCD where applicable. A major deliverable of the project is a future land use map which will have a relationship to the state and towns' future land use maps and include regional recommendations. There is no printing budget for the project so the final plan will be presented via a website.

It was suggested to create a one-page description of the RPOCD, the project, and how it relates to the state and towns, and why the public should care. It was also noted that some towns are currently updating their POCDs so distinguishing the regional plan from the town plan when it comes to meeting and information is important. Ms. Emery suggested meeting in Middletown toward the end of April because Middletown is doing their update now.

Cromwell volunteered to go first. Former RPC member Alice Kelly is their P&Z Chair and is looking forward to helping with this project.

10. Referrals: None at this time

11. Miscellaneous: State, Regional and/or Local Planning Issues

Mr. Gold discussed the legislative agenda that was presented at the last COG meeting with area legislators. He highlighted the importance of three "Ts" - trees, tolls and trash. In regards to the tree discussion, RPC members mentioned some previously undiscussed invasive species such as the spotted lantern fly and bittersweet vine.

Mr. Gold also touched upon the issues of energy/virtual net metering, opening up state land for solar arrays, a call to state leadership to get CEOs, legislators and state agencies on the same team, and independent taxing districts within towns.

Mr. Gold mentioned that he met the new Commissioner of Agriculture, Brian Hurlbut, at the Regional Agricultural Council meeting. The bike-ped plan map that was presented at a past meeting has been updated due to comments from that meeting. FHI is working with Janice Ehle/Meyer on this further. Additionally, a new planner, Megan Joufflas, is joining the RiverCOG team in February. She will be working on the RPOCD.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza Lopresti